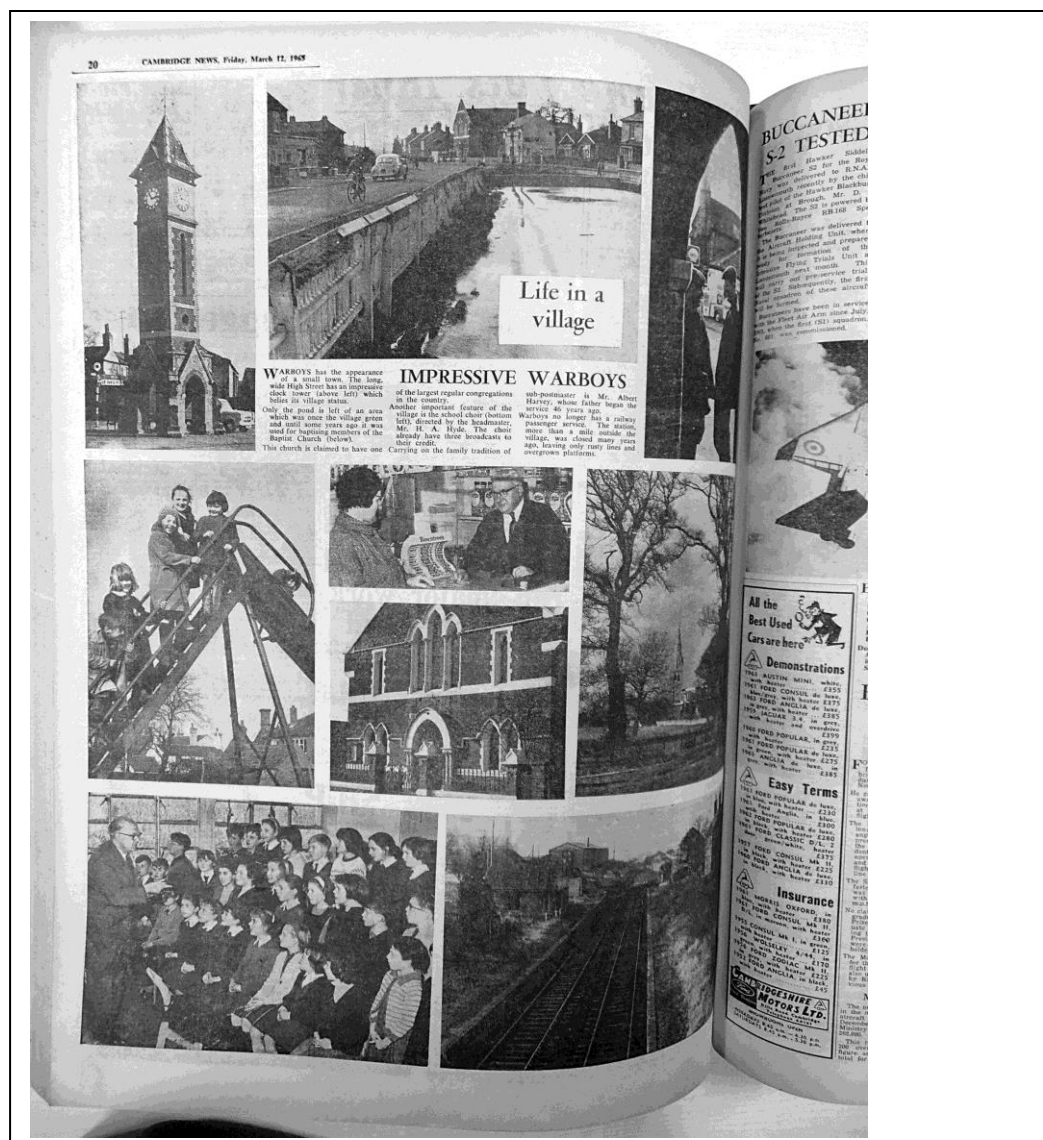


## Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies reported in Cambridge Newspapers

Mike Petty



Warboys Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies  
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the  
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the  
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online at  
<https://archive.org/details/CambridgeshireScrapbook2018Revision>

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.  
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in  
touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library  
where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the  
1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – [www.mikepetty.org.uk](http://www.mikepetty.org.uk) for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2018

Warboys Scrapbook compiled by Mike Petty

1898 01 25

A very large company assembled at the Golden Lion Hotel, St Ives, when three licenced houses were put up for sale by auction. The first house offered was the Pelican Inn, Warboys. It was fully licenced and well fitted up with a frontage to the High Street. It was sold for £1,000, it being fully expected to realize at least £1,500. Next was the Three Horseshoes in Woodhurst, brought for £500. The freehold beerhouse in Fenstanton known as the Prince's Feathers with the cottage adjoining was sold for £500 to Mr G.G. Wheeler as agent for Mr Burt, the well-known Fenstanton brewer

1898 07 25

Ramsey fair which has been held on Thursday (a day earlier) Friday and Saturday, has been about the same as usual. The chief attraction have been the gondolas and cinematograph. Most of the stalls left for Warboys feast

1900 09 27

The village of Warboys was devastated by fire caused by three boys playing with matchsticks in a stackyard. The dry straw was quickly in a blaze, the farmhouse soon involved and fanned by a strong breeze two other farmsteads were also destroyed. The sparks ignited the thatch of some cottages in the High Street and a whole row were burned down, the fire spreading to another row on the opposite side of the street. A brewery and cycle store were also burnt out and great consternation caused by the explosion of a large quantity of gunpowder, several of the firemen being blown off their feet.

1913 06 13

Warboys Red Tile Farm sale, p3

1914 08 14

Rumours of the presence of spies have been circulating during the last few days. At Warboys the telegraph wire which rings the signal bell at the station on the Somersham to Ramsey branch line was cut during the night and another partially severed. Two foreign gentlemen were seen by Mr W.J. Unwin acting in a suspicious manner at Histon. He followed them to Girton and at each of the three bridges they stopped and examined them. At Girton he phoned the police and a constable was sent out. The men were requested to go to the police station which they did without demure and after questioning were liberated at once. Meanwhile police have been issued with rifles 14 08 14 p7

1919 10 22 Ch

Frank Fyson on trial for attempted murder of his wife and attempted suicide Christ's Pieces; he from Warboys and had toured with the VC Cockerel – 19 10 22e

1924 03 14

A disastrous fire broke out on the premises of Mrs Baldock, at Warboys. The local manual engine was brought out, and the Ramsey Brigade was sent for, but owing to the strong wind their task was a helpless one as the flames leapt rapidly from building to building. The fire spread to Mr Dorrington's premises, Mr Allpress's carpenters shop was burnt down and several small cottages attacked. It is some time since a fire of such magnitude occurred in the locality

1928 08 06

The verger of the parish church at Warboys found that six brass candlesticks and six brass vases were missing from the altar. The candles had been removed and laid on the Communion table. Entry had been obtained by prising open a leaded window at the south end of the church. This is the second time within 14 months that this church has been broken into.

1929 11 28

An amazing story was told at Huntingdon police court when a woman was charged with obtaining goods and money by false pretences. Edward Elphick, house furnisher of Huntingdon, said she had

paid with a cheque that was returned marked 'No account'. Albert Bigmore, jeweller of Ramsey told a similar story. Police said she had made many untruthful statements. She came here about a year ago from Essex where she left her husband and four children and lived at Warboys with another man. She then moved to Wistow, Woodhurst, St Ives and Houghton before taking a cottage at Hartford. Wherever she lived she left behind debts and non-payment of rent. She wrote many letters to herself which purported to be from her uncle promising large sums of money and a motor car. She also claimed to be the widow of a naval officer. None of these were true.

1930 08 29

The new premises for the Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds now under construction in Market Street, Ely are being built by workmen who were members of the Society and the bricks which came from Warboys and Whittlesey are also made by members. In 1914 the district had been in a state of chaos but was now flourishing and the new building, designed by Tucker and Son, will be an everlasting monument to the Order. The Central Hall is panelled in oak and there will be a kitchen and four large offices. 30 08 29a-c

1933 03 16

Warboys road accident – 33 03 16a

1934 08 02

A Warboys couple, Mr & Mrs Edward Upchurch have both forgotten the date of their wedding, 60 years ago. They mark the event by the fact that it was during feast week in the village that they were joined in matrimony and the feast week custom has never been broken. They were both born in the village and have lived in the area all their lives, bringing up 14 children of whom nine live to share their diamond wedding. At one time Mr Upchurch, a land worker, received only a shilling a week and the family gleaned at harvest to bake their own bread. 34 08 02

1934 12 20

When a foreman railway porter reported a burglary at Warboys station little did he realise it would lead to the apprehension of his wife on a charge of stealing money from the office. Although the station was closed during the weekend it was the practice to leave money there. Police found a window had been broken but it was discovered the office could only have been entered by somebody with a key. The porter sat in the court at Ramsey while the woman tearfully confessed to taking two ten-shilling notes, two half-crowns and a penny. She was bound over to be of good behaviour. 34 12 20c

1935 06 21

A large granary at Longland's Farm, Fenton, near Warboys, was destroyed by a fire which began on the top floor where two tons of flake maize was stored. A week ago the maize, which was kept in sacks, was found to be overheated and was turned in order to cool down. At 10.40pm a maroon was fired in Ramsey to arouse the fire brigade and 15 minutes later they were at the scene. In a little more than half an hour they had the blaze under control. 35 06 21

1935 11 19

An agricultural labourer lost all his possessions in a fire which destroyed his cottage at Turf Fen, Warboys. Returning at 8pm he saw smoke and flames pouring through a window. He smashed in the front door with an axe and was able to recover some money belonging to his wife. This was the only thing he managed to save. The flames made short work of everything except the brick walls of the five-roomed cottage whose majesty was soon disturbed by the Ramsey Fire Brigade. When they found that water was not having the desired effect they pushed the walls over with poles. 35 11 19

1939 10 04

Farm workers pay was raised by 2/- week. This was not a living wage but in the last war fathers and mothers brought up families of 10 and 12 children, all well and working, on a farm worker's wage. At Warboys a man and his wife, both over 80, were living in a tumbled-down cottage. He had brought up

19 children on an agricultural wage and every one of them was alive and well. But just because they had a certain measure of happiness, this did not mean they'd had a very good life 39 10 14a

1947 04 10

Flood clearance pumping is now being done by individual farmers in many places in the fen district. Some 25 small pumps have been issued from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries pump depot at Warboys. The depot maintains a "flying squad" which goes out day or night should any of the pumps cease because of need for service. Since the depot came into being at the former R.A.F. Pathfinder airfield is had dealt with between 120 and 130 units. The depot started from scratch with just three bare buildings of the deserted airfield. It is now a complete unit with canteen, and administrative office, petrol supplies and even facilities for doing a certain amount of servicing of motor vehicles if necessary. No sooner had it opened than a stream of lorries bringing pumps, equipment and what one man described as "an odd assortment of pipes" began to arrive from all over England

1948 09 25

References to the present position regarding the European Volunteer Workers was made at a meeting of the Cambridge Employment Committee. At Warboys a volunteer camp had been opened for the accommodation of volunteer workers in agriculture during the holidays and over 1,750 volunteers had spent periods in the camp since it was opened. The committee expressed anxiety with regard to the number of European volunteer workers unplaced at the West Wrattling holding hostel and Mr Harding said he considered that the object for which these people were recruited had now been fulfilled and that recruitment from the Continent should now cease

1960 02 19

Three sections of disused railway lines might be used in connection with the construction of future new roads in Huntingdonshire. They are the line and bridge from Bluntisham to Earith on the St Ives-Earith-Ely branch line, the bridge over the Great Ouse between St Ives station and the level crossing on the B1040 and the line and bridges from Huntingdon to Kimbolton. But councillors see no use for the line from Ramsey East station to Warboys. 60 02 19a

1963 05 10

Warboys. Avoid the expensive localities and live in this elevated and prosperous village, six miles from Huntingdon, 17 from Peterborough and 20 miles from Cambridge. 63 05 10a

1965 03 12

Warboys photo feature – 65 03 12a